

# Restoring Our Native Fish Species

## Native Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration in the Pend Oreille Basin

### What is the problem?

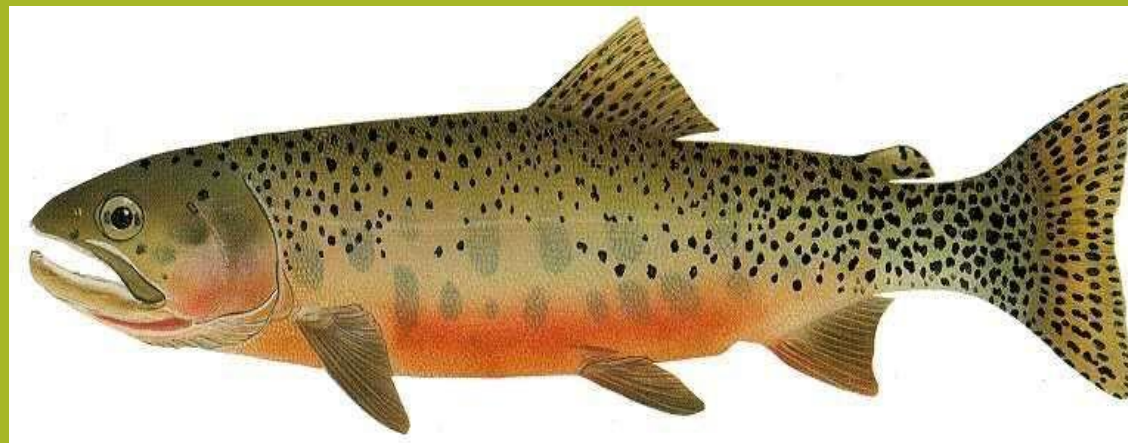
#### **Westslope Cutthroat Trout (WCT) populations are in decline in the Pend Oreille Basin**

- Westslope Cutthroat Trout are native to the Pend Oreille Basin
- Historically occupied 99% of tributary streams
- Today WCT are present in only 35% of streams
- WCT have previously been proposed for listing as an endangered species

### What are the causes?

#### **The decline in WCT is due in part to invasion by non-native species**

- Non-native species (such as brook trout) pressure native species
- Brook trout spawn earlier and juveniles are larger, take needed resources, and are more tolerant to degraded habitat



Adult Westslope Cutthroat Trout

### What can we do?

#### **Restoration efforts are most effective through suppression or removal of non-native species**

##### Suppression

- **Summer/Fall 2016 – Sullivan Creek Electrofishing**
- Removal of non-native fish through mechanical means such as electro fishing, nets, or angling
- Suppression does not remove all non-native fish
- Must be repeated consistently to maintain benefits for native fish

##### Removal

- **Planned for Summer/Fall 2017 – Locations TBA**
- Removal of non-native fish by applying a naturally occurring chemical called rotenone
- Rotenone has been used safely and successfully around the world
- All fish are removed
- Stream is restocked with native WCT



For additional information, please contact:

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